

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE  
METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FILTERING INTER-NODE COMMUNICATION  
IN A DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM

5           A method and system for communication in a system  
area network (SAN) data processing system are described.  
The SAN includes a plurality of interconnected nodes that  
each have at least one port for communication. To avoid  
communication-induced errors that may arise, for example,  
10 if multiple nodes share the same node ID, the port of a  
node in the SAN is marked as "fenced" to prevent  
transmission of packets of a first traffic type while  
permitting transmission of packets of a second traffic  
type. The marking of the port may be recorded, for  
15 example, in a configuration register of the port. While  
the port is fenced, only packets of other than the first  
traffic type are routed via the port. In one preferred  
embodiment, the second traffic type represents SAN  
configuration traffic, and the first traffic type  
20 represents non-configuration traffic. In this preferred  
embodiment, the marking of the port may be removed  
following communication of configuration traffic utilized  
to negotiate unique node ID throughout the SAN.